

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 31, 2005. Claims 25 to 48, 58 and 60 to 75 are pending in the application, with Claim 59 having been cancelled and Claims 74 and 75 having been added. Claims 25 to 48 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 58 and 72 have been amended. Of the claims presented for examination, Claims 58, 74 and 75 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 72 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly claiming non-statutory subject matter. Claim 72 has been amended, and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 59, 62, 67 and 71 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 59, Applicants have amended independent Claim 58 to include the substance of Claim 59, and Claim 59 has consequently been cancelled. In addition, newly-added independent Claims 74 and 75 are respectively directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium which are seen to generally correspond with Claim 58 as amended. Consequently, each of independent Claims 59, 74 and 75, together with their dependent claims, are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 58, 60 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,899,985 (Tanaka), and Claims 63 to 66, 68 to 70, 72 and 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,500,715 (Ta). The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject

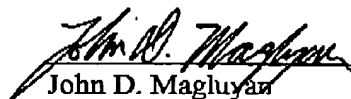
matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

Regarding a formal matter, it is respectfully requested to receive initialed copies of the Forms PTO-1449 that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements dated August 9, 2005 and November 3, 2005.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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